

Green building is going strong. With a higher demand for green solutions, materials are more readily available and surely the prices will become more reasonable.

Katharine Wroth from [www.grist.org](http://www.grist.org) recently reported on four innovative green buildings.

In Augusta Maine, the Hannaford Supermarket has earned a Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. This certified organic retailer's new store uses half as much energy as a typical store and gets energy from geothermal heating and cooling, natural lighting, and solar panels. Wroth was impressed with its motion-activated refrigerator case lights.

Builders in Anaheim California will soon begin construction of an innovative transportation hub. The idea is to provide a reliable connection for non-car travel encompassing Amtrak, regional trains, buses, taxis, with connections to Disney's monorail. The center is called ARCTIC for Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center and will have a roof covered with a membrane that contracts and expands to control the natural light.

The new PNC Bank headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will be ultra green. Plants will cover a 2,380-square-foot outside wall. These plants will not only look pretty, but cool the building, absorb sound, and provide shade. These plants will come from nurseries within 500 miles of the project thus increasingly green Pittsburgh's LEED-certified projects.

A couple of years ago, when my sister Carrie and I were walking in Paris, we came across a building that was almost entirely covered with plants. From the first level of the Eiffel Tower, we looked back and saw the roof set up as a ball field and we surmised it was the same building.

And not to be undone, the USGBC (yes, that is the U.S. Green Building Council) has awarded itself a Platinum LEED certificate for their new Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Wroth noted that they

used gumwood salvaged from the bottom of the Tennessee River.

Logs are being salvaged from the bottom of the Great Lakes as well as in lakes in Maine and the South. Hardwood doesn't easily float, so much of it slipped to the bottom and has been preserved in its watery storage. This wood is now milled for use in furniture and buildings.

A National Bottle Bill?

In Washington, Representative Edward Markey (D-Mass) has reintroduced a national bottle bill in Congress that would place a 5 cent redemption fee on beverage containers. This would cover the 40 states what do not have a bottle bill.

According to Californians Against Waste: "this year California will recycle a record 18 billion used beverage containers, or 80 percent of every aluminum, glass and plastic container sold. Recycling these materials conserves resources, reduces pollution and saves local governments tens of millions in lower litter clean up and waste disposal costs.

"It is virtually the same story in the ten other states with similar bottle and can recycling laws. States that have bottle bills have reached recycling rates near or above 80 percent, and have significantly reduced beverage container litter, green house gas emissions, and waste."

Weigh in your support for this national bill by logging onto [www.CAWrecycles.org](http://www.CAWrecycles.org).

*VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit [www.VALCORErecycling.org](http://www.VALCORErecycling.org).*

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